

ILMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Ilminster Urban District.

Gentlemen,

In the absence of Dr. C.C.Court I have compiled his Annual Report for the year 1949. You will realise that I am unable to supply further details as at present he is not well enough to be troubled with these matters.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.M.McCALL.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The Registrar-General gives the estimated population of Ilminster for the mid-year 1949 as 2,656.

Birth Rate.

The Birth Rate in Ilminster for the Year was 19.2 per 1,000. A table of statistics will be found in Appendix A. Table 1.

Death Rate.

The Death Rate is 10.13 per 1,000 for the year. Causes of Death will be found in Appendix A. Table 2.

Infant Mortality.

There were 2 still births, but no deaths under 1 year.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no cases of Maternal Mortality during the year.

SECTION B.General Provisions of Health Services of Area.

Since the National Health Service Act came into existence many of the services previously run locally have become the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, that is, the County Council. We in Somerset are fortunate in the degree of delegation of authority allowed by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Home Help Service.

The County Home Help Service, so valuable in times of confinement, illness or old age is well established in this area and has worked smoothly when required.

School Medical Service.

This Service is organised by the County Education Committee.

Dental Service.

Somerset like all other Health Authorities have been finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their Dental Services owing to staff resignations since 1948.

Ophthalmic Services.

The County service available for children of all ages has been working extremely well. All cases referred from school medical inspections are seen promptly and then regularly as necessary.

SECTION C.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases.

A summary of notifications will be found in Appendix C.

Table 1.

I am pleased to report that the town was again free from Infantile Paralysis.

SECTION D.

Environmental Health Services.

(a) Sanitary Circumstances.

Climatic Conditions.

The year will be remembered mainly for the extremely dry summer. Rainfall was considerably below normal,

Water Supply.

The summer months were critical times over most of the Country and water supplies were very low. In Ilminster the quantity was satisfactory for the major part of the year except when drought conditions made it necessary to restrict, in order to assist the Rural District Council in maintaining their supplies to their Western parishes via Stocklinch. Seven samples of water were taken during the year and they were all satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There were no extensions or improvements to the system during the year.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

Routine treatments were carried out on all the Council properties.

(b) Housing.

Statistics.

The statistics will be found in Appendix D. Table 1.

(c) Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

All retailers were registered and licences granted.

Food.

The Slaughterhouses in the district were inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDIX. A. Table 1.

BIRTH RATE.

<u>Live Births.</u>		M.	F.
Total.		26.	25.
Legitimate.		26.	25.
Illegitimate.		-	-
<u>Still Births.</u>			
Total.		1.	1.
Legitimate.		1.	1.
Illegitimate.		-.	-.
Death of Infants under 1 year.	Total.	-	-
	Legitimate.	-	-
	Illegitimate.	-	-

Birth Rate 19.2. per 1,000.

APPENDIX A. Table 2.

TABLE OF DEATHS.

Death Rate. 10.13 per 1,000.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	Total.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis.	1.	1.	
Heart Disease.	3.	1.	2.
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions.	5.	1.	4.
Other diseases of Circulatory system.	1.	-	1.
Respiratory Diseases.	4.	3.	1.
Cancer.	5.	-	5.
Suicide.	1.	-	1.
Other violent causes.	3.	-	3.
All other causes.	2.	-	2.
Other digestive disorders.	2.	1.	1.
	27.	7.	20.

APPENDIX C. Table 1.

Infectious Diseases.

Whooping Cough.	Nil.	
Scarlet Fever.	16 cases.	
Measles.	45 cases.	
Erysipelas.	1 case.	
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1 case.	(admitted to Hospital).
Total	<u>63</u> cases.	

Tuberculosis.

	M.	F.
<u>Respiratory.</u>	4.	1.
<u>Non Respiratory.</u>	Nil.	Nil.

<u>Deaths.</u>	M.	F.
Respiratory.	-	1.
Non Respiratory.	Nil.	Nil.

APPENDIX D. Table 1.

HOUSING.

	Houses erected during the year.		Houses in course of erection.		Conversion to Temporary flats or dwellings, such as Army huts etc.		
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority.	8.	-	6.	-	-	-	-
Private Enter-prise.	2.	-	3.	-	1.	-	-
TOTALS.	10.	-	9.	-	1.	-	-

Houses required.

(a)	To replace those unfit.	150.
(b)	To abate overcrowding.	20.
(c)	Where conditions are unsatisfactory, e.g. two families living in the same house, but not included in (a) or (b).	20.
	Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year.	205.
	Houses occupied that have been condemned as totally unfit.	6.

